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## Letter dated 12 September 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge the strongest protest over the difficult situation in Kosovska Mitrovica, Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, brought about by KFOR and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) by their brutal, unprovoked and forcible takeover of the *Trepca* Shareholding Corporation and over the failure of the Security Council to react to the requests presented in my letters of 19 July and 14 August 2000.

By using armed force against the *Trepca* employees and the peaceful population of Kosovska Mitrovica, KFOR and UNMIK have violated in a most drastic way the mandate of the international civil and security presences, Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, the laws of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and international law. Their action also represents an abuse of the United Nations. Under the symbols of the world Organization, force is being used against the population that KFOR and UNMIK are mandated to protect, private property is being seized and handed over to multinational corporations, and employees and their families are being bereft of their means of subsistence.

I reiterate that *Trepca* is not a public but a shareholding corporation, managed by a Management Board and a Director-General, nominated by the Assembly of the Corporation. No decision of the Security Council, not even a regulation of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNMIK, provides for the takeover of *Trepca*, the property of known owners. The action, taken allegedly to protect the local population from air pollution, has deprived over 2,000 employees, most of them Serbs, of their jobs. The alleged concern for the environment rings very hollow indeed, all the more so as KFOR and UNMIK have failed to take any action to protect the population from the effects of over 30,000 depleted uranium and cluster bombs dropped on Kosovo and Metohija during the North Atlantic Treaty Organization aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. You will be interested to know that UNMIK has not yet provided information about the locations against which those bombs were used. Also, *Trepca* is the only plant that has been in operation since the deployment of KFOR and UNMIK, whereas other plants controlled by UNMIK or by Albanians have long been out of commission.

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After that irresponsible action and use of force, KFOR and UNMIK have lost the modicum of trust that still existed among the few remaining Serbs and other non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija, and are solely responsible for the deterioration of the situation and growing mistrust in Kosovska Mitrovica. The decision of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNMIK to ban Novak Bjelic, Director-General of *Trepca*, from Kosovo and Metohija is unprecedented and constitutes a most flagrant violation of Council resolution 1244 (1999), human rights and the freedom of movement, and should be revoked immediately.

There is no doubt that the seizure of *Trepca* was carried out at the behest of Albanian separatists and in the interest of multinational corporations. A deliberate action calculated to step up ethnic cleansing and genocide against the Serbs and other non-Albanians in Kosovo and Metohija, it is a means of imposing neo-colonialist control over the natural, material and human resources of a sovereign country.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will never accept acts of fait accompli that are unrelated to and incongruous with the letter and spirit of Council resolution 1244 (1999). The consequences of those acts, including the compensation for the damage that has been done, will be borne by those who have committed them. This also includes the multinational corporations that, in pursuit of a quick profit, have elected to join the KFOR and UNMIK bandwagon.

Bearing in mind the gravity of the situation and all its negative consequences, the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the Security Council once again to condemn energetically the forcible takeover of *Trepca* and to restore the *status quo ante* so that *Trepca* can commence work again as soon as possible. The Security Council is also called upon to put under control the activities of United Nations representatives in Kosovo and Metohija, return KFOR and UNMIK to the confines of their mandate, and revoke the decisions that were taken in flagrant violation of Council resolution 1244 (1999) and threaten the overall situation in that Serbian province.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.